

This is supposed to be the people's house. Therefore, the President should not be able to override our governance and make us part of his Gestapo regime.

MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, the story of our Nation's healthcare system is one of great success but also one of great failure and missed opportunity. We have some of the finest medical institutions in the world: the best trained medical professionals, cutting-edge technology, and state-of-the-art facilities.

We also have, however, major gaps in our healthcare system. At last count nearly 46 million Americans were uninsured. Close to six million Americans lost their insurance between 2000 and 2004. More than 18,000 Americans die prematurely each year because they lack health insurance coverage. Despite the outstanding job by hospitals, community health centers, and others, our safety net is becoming threadbare. Federal spending on the healthcare safety net declined 8.9 percent between 2001 and 2004, while the need continues to grow even larger.

The time is ripe for action. Today several of my Democratic colleagues and I are introducing a bill to bring the tried, true, and trusted Medicare program to all. This bill will for the first time make Medicare available to those under age 65. Americans will also have the option of selecting any of the plans offered to members of Congress, the President, and Federal employees.

According to the Institute of Medicine, covering all Americans will actually save the country \$380 billion a year. That is partly because we are already paying for the health care of the uninsured through emergency room services. By providing people the ability to obtain comprehensive healthcare coverage, they will be able to receive better prevention services and earlier treatments, lowering the cost of their care. All Americans will reap the economic benefits of a healthier Nation.

And this plan will save not only lives, but also American industries and jobs. We currently have an unlevel economic playing field. American companies are competing in the international marketplace against companies that do not directly bear the costs of providing their employees and retirees health care. American companies are doing the right thing, but being penalized for it.

I am pleased to introduce this "Medicare for All" bill today as a companion bill to the legislation Senator KENNEDY introduced yesterday. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I urge the Republican leadership to let us address the healthcare crisis faced by millions of Americans.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ELLEN KNOWLTON; SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE OF THE FBI LAS VEGAS OFFICE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of Ellen Knowlton, who retires from the Federal Bureau of Investigations on February 3, 2006, after 24 years of dedicated service.

Special Agent in Charge Ellen Knowlton, is a graduate of California State University, Sacramento, where she received a bachelors of science in business administration. She also obtained a master's degree in business administration from Saint Mary's College, Moraga, California. Prior to joining the Federal Bureau of Investigation, she worked in the Insurance Industry as a Claims Supervisor.

Agent Knowlton has served in many offices and many positions throughout her years as an FBI agent. She has traveled the world on assignment and lived in many cities and countries as demanded by her job. Mrs. Knowlton's first assignment was to the FBI's Sacramento Field Office, where she was responsible for investigating bank robbery, fugitive, and kidnapping matters. She was later transferred to the Oklahoma City Field Office, where she was responsible for investigating white-collar crime matters.

When assigned to the San Francisco Field Office, she was responsible for investigating foreign counterintelligence and white-collar crime matters. In the New Orleans Field Office, she supervised the White-Collar Crime Squad. Later, she became Unit Chief in the Criminal Investigative Division at FBIHQ. Other managerial positions Mrs. Knowlton held were Assistant Special Agent in Charge, FCI ASAC, and Criminal Special Agent in Charge of the Washington Field Office, Inspector, and Deputy Assistant Director of the National Security Division, Counterintelligence Operations Support.

In May of 2002 Agent Ellen Knowlton moved with her family to Las Vegas in order to begin her job as Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Las Vegas office. During her tenure, Agent Knowlton has earned the respect of her colleagues and community leaders.

Mr. Speaker, we have been fortunate to have Ellen Knowlton in Las Vegas, Nevada, and the state has benefited from her knowledge and skill as an FBI agent. It is with great pleasure that I recognize Agent Knowlton today, and I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring all FBI agents, like Agent Ellen Knowlton, who have dedicated years of their lives to protecting the residents of our communities.

TRIBUTE TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SUCCASUNNA

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the First Presbyterian Church

of Succasunna in the Township of Roxbury, Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant community I am proud to represent. On April 29, 2006, the good citizens of Succasunna will celebrate the First Presbyterian Church's 250th anniversary.

The congregation first organized in 1756. In 1760, their first building was erected and measured approximately 36 by 40 feet in size, had plain seats, an unfinished floor and no ceiling. In fact, it wasn't until 1768 that the congregation was strong enough to extend a call for a full-time pastor, Reverend William Woodhull, whom they shared with a congregation in Chester, New Jersey for a salary of £400. The church building was used during the Revolutionary War for barracks, for a hospital, and to keep material dry. It is rumored that George Washington visited hospitalized troops there. When the new Centennial Bell for Independence Hall in Philadelphia was being cast, the church contributed one of the cannons being stored there for bell metal.

On May 3, 1817, the church incorporated a Board of Trustees as "The Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church of Succasunny Plains."

In 1853, the congregation tore down the original building and raised a new one in the fall of the same year. Amongst other relics, they placed a brief history of the church, a list of the officers and members at that time, certain newspapers, and a bullet found in removing the old building bearing the date in etching July 4, 1776 within the cornerstone of the new church. The first service in this new building was the funeral for Mahlon Dickerson, a distinguished native son, who had been judge, general, Governor of New Jersey, Member of Congress, and Secretary of the Navy in the cabinet of President Jackson. He was responsible for bringing President Martin Van Buren to worship there.

The building, now known as the Chapel, was erected in the memory of Eliza Platt Stoddard, a step-daughter to then Reverend Dr. Elijah W. Stoddard. In 1957, a committee planned fundraising for a new pipe organ and a major expansion project for what is now known as Fellowship Hall.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the First Presbyterian Church of Succasunna on the celebration of its 250 years serving Morris County.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was granted a leave of absence for December 19, 2005. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

Rollcall 665, H.R. 2520, the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act—"yea."

Rollcall 666, waiving points of order against the conference report on H.R. 2863, Department of Defense Appropriations for FY06—"yea."

Rollcall 667, H. Con. Res. 284, expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the 2005 presidential and parliamentary elections in Israel—"yea."

Rollcall 668, motion to recommit Conference Report to H.R. 2863, Defense Appropriations for FY06—"nay."